

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 5, 2003  
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2003

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 254**

**Introduced by Senator Dunn**

February 18, 2003

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An act to amend Section 69922 of the Government Code, relating to trial courts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 254, as amended, Dunn. Trial courts: court attendants.

Existing law requires a sheriff to attend a noncriminal, nondelinquency action in superior court if the judge or his or her designee determines that attendance is necessary for public safety. Otherwise, the court may use court attendants, as defined, in courtrooms hearing those noncriminal, nondelinquency actions. Existing law also authorizes court attendants to take charge of a jury during its deliberations.

This bill would limit the use of court attendants to ~~only those superior courts that employed court attendants on or before December 31, 2002, and then only at or below those staffing levels and only for~~ administrative duties in certain civil cases, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 69922 of the Government Code is  
2 amended to read:

69922. (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, whenever required, the sheriff shall attend all superior court proceedings held within his or her county. A sheriff shall attend a noncriminal, nondelinquency action, however, only if the presiding judge or his or her designee makes a determination that the attendance of the sheriff at that action is necessary for reasons of public safety. The sheriff shall obey all lawful orders and directions of all courts held within his or her county.

~~(b) Only a superior court that employed court attendants on or before December 31, 2002, may employ court attendants, and only under the following conditions:~~

~~(1) Staffing levels by court attendants may not exceed the staffing levels that existed on or before December 31, 2002.~~

~~(2)~~

(b) Court attendants shall be restricted to administrative functions that are limited to civil cases, including taking charge of civil juries that are not sequestered.

~~(3)~~

(c) Court attendants may not perform weapons screening or traffic court duties, or carry out any other law enforcement functions whether for a civil or criminal court, and may have no contact with criminal defendants or prisoners who are in custody.

~~(4)~~

(d) Court attendants may not perform any functions in the conduct of family law cases, including, but not limited to, mediation proceedings, dependency hearings, and emergency protective order proceedings.